

TEXAS PERFINS ————— by Floyd Walker

In March 1973, I reported that the State of Texas was considering using Perfins to control postage used by state legislators.

A story in the Houston Chronicle had reported that Texas representative James Cole was planning to ask the Texas House of Representatives to restrict postage issued to legislators to either small postage meters or Perfins.

Cole's announcement followed the indictment of three former House members on charges involving the theft of several thousand dollars worth of postage--in one case to pay off a bank note and in another case to buy a pickup truck.

As I reported at that time, I wrote to Representative Cole offering assistance and encouragement and strongly suggesting that he would find Perfins quite effective in controlling postage.

Alas, I didn't hear from Mr. Cole. I waited for almost a year and then forgot all about the subject.

But I had given up too soon. One day early in October I got a call at my office from Tom Treadway, the financial division director for the Texas House of Representatives.

Treadway told me that my letter to Representative Cole had finally surfaced--after four years in the Texas paper jungle--and that he was now asking for the assistance I had offered to Representative Cole.

It appears that Texas has dug out the old Comptroller's Perfin (C-10), the C in the Star pattern, and is using it to supply members of the House with Perfins.

Treadway reported, however, that the old perforator (which is a ten-die variety) just isn't adequate to keep up with the demand for postage. He had contacted the local Cummins salesman who seemed to know nothing about perforators for postage stamps and in fact denied that Cummins had ever manufactured such an item.

I suggested several sources of assistance for Treadway--and gave him the names of several other major users of Perfins who might be able to help him even more.

I would assume now that Treadway is on the way toward locating additional perforators for those Texas lawmakers. Whether that will result in additional patterns, I don't know yet. But Treadway has promised to keep me informed and I in turn will keep members of the Club informed.

In the meantime, pattern C-10, the C in Star of the State of Texas, should be returned to the "active" side of the ledger and the C rating given in the Cain List should be suspended until we find out how many of the Perfins are used on modern postage.